

ABRAM HATCH

I was born in Heber City, Utah, September 8, 1879. My parents were Joseph and Sarah Jane Clyde Hatch. Mother bore eight children, six sons and two daughters. She died at the age of 50, and father was killed in an auto wreck when he was near his eightieth year.

On my seventh birthday father gave me a small printing press which he purchased on one of his trips east, where he made his annual trips with trainloads of fat beef cattle from our Colorado, Utah and Wyoming ranch for the eastern markets at Omaha or Chicago. The press would print a form 3 1/2 x 5 inches and was of sufficient capacity to print letter heads and reasonably large envelope forms. Mother was my banker and in the three years between seven and ten I saved \$35 (present purchasing power about \$200) and bought the hand press on which I later printed the Heber Herald, a 4-page 9 x 12-inch weekly newspaper with a circulation of 300 copies, and continent-wide for the subscription list. There were three pages of hand set type and one page of advertising that brought in \$6 a week, or near \$300 yearly. But when high school time came the entire staff of the Herald (consisting of a boy of 13 years) was drafted and the Herald ceased publication.

I was editor, manager, type and the necessary newspaper devil. When the entire staff was stalled by parental demands the Herald had no chance but to fade out. Details of its life and death struggles and accomplishments are past history, as detailed by J. Cecil Alter in his books, "Early Utah Journalism." Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, 1938. Pages 83 to 87, inclusive.

I entered the Heber High School, consisting of one room, one teacher, and one dozen assorted students September, 1892, the Preparatory School at the University of Utah, September, 1896.

I left the Heber Brass Band as secretary, librarian and one of the musicians after a period of ten years.

In 1897 I entered the ACU as the

376

HOV

first student from Wasatch County, studying animal husbandry, dairying, English and history. The Wasatch Creamery was constructed in the winter of '97 and the spring of '98 as a community Co-Op. I took over management April 1, 1898, and remained there for a period of eighteen months and then entered the University of Utah as a freshman in engineering.

After two and one-half years of schooling, fire wiped out the engineering building and with it my books, laboratory equipment and job as assistant to Dr. James E. Talmage, in geology and mineralogy. Balance of the school year was spent with the Pacific Lumber Co. I then went back to Heber City and purchased the Heber Pharmacy. As manager I made it a good investment and in 1903 married Rowena Ottinger, youngest daughter of G. M. Ottinger. He was an artist and an art instructor to many of the present and past prominent artists of the state. He was the first art instructor at the University of Utah.

After two years of schooling in practical and theoretical pharmacy, I was able to pass the examinations and receive from the State Board of Pharmacy my license to practice in Utah.

In 1905, I organized the Heber Drug Co. as a corporation, and moved to new quarters in the Bank Bldg. The store room was spacious and fixtures were modern. We had a very good business in drugs and confectionery.

In 1906 I sold my interest in the drug store and, with wife and two daughters, moved to Salt Lake and bought the Fifth East Pharmacy.

I sold this store in 1912 and bought a half interest in the Heber Drug and moved with wife, two daughters and two sons back to Heber and became manager of the drug store.

1913 was a panic year and we weathered the slump by careful purchasing and merchandising. We manufactured all confections and ice creams that the trade required. This was more than 50 pct. of our total sales and required little additional help so that the gross profit from this department provided a generous net profit. As competition by another drug store developed we had to make every line a profitable one. In 1915 we bought farm prop-



V BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

erty, leased an additional hundred acres and started a registered Jersey herd. Farm and dairy prospered and there was plenty of good Jersey cream for confectionery and growing boys and girls.

By-products of skim and butter milk and a business in grade A 5 pct. (butter fat) bottle milk added both labor and profit, and jobs for the young family.

Modern machinery and shop for the farm, a large hay mow for the surplus baled hay, with the milking machine, now made possible the milking of 35 cows by one man.

White Leghorn chickens and Chester White hogs grew numerous and fat. The girls had the profits from the chickens and cared for them diligently. The boys took turns in driving the herd to pasture and shared with Dad the labor and care of milk and cream.

Heber High School had grown with increase in population and by 1923 the two girls graduated and entered the University of Utah. We found we were now short-handed in both the home and the store. Boys were in high school and we began to unload our investments.

We sold dairy herd and farm investments in 1924 and 1925, and purchased a home in Salt Lake City, moving in 1927. Sold the store in 1928 and took employment here as a pharmacist, which gave us an income while our business of supplying LDS Church and others with projection films for the mission fields. Retired from the drug store business shortly after the '29 and '30 panic and developed a photography business of considerable magnitude, from which we are slowly retiring.

Moved to Garden Park Ward in August, 1948, and bought the Albert Van Cott home on 1285 Yale Ave. We celebrated our golden wedding there on June 17, 1953, with a guest list registering over 325 friends and relatives.

HON. ABRAM C. HATCH of Heber City, who passed away March 24th, 1932, was a veteran business and professional man in the public life of Wasatch County and the state. His home had been in Utah all his life, for over three-quarters of a century, and he was one of the most active of the old-timers in the affairs of his district.

Mr. Hatch was born at Lehi, Utah County, December 14, 1856, son of Abram and Parmelia J. (Lott) Hatch. His father was one of the earliest pioneers of Lehi, and in the course of a long and active life was a merchant, farmer, rancher, and for many years bishop of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. He was the first president of the Wasatch Stake. He died December 3, 1911.

Abram C. Hatch as a boy attended public schools at Lehi and Heber. In 1876, at the age of twenty, he began ranching in Eastern Utah and Western Colorado, raising cattle and horses. In 1879 he established his home at Heber, where he continued in association with his father and brother in the ranch business until 1894. In the meantime there came to him the call of public service. In 1893 he was elected a member of the Legislature from the district comprising Wasatch, Emery and Grand counties. He served

388

UTAH

-After Vol III

one term of two years. In the meantime he was devoting all his leisure time to the study of law and on February 23, 1895, was admitted to practice before the Utah Supreme Court. During the subsequent thirty-five years he handled a large volume of general law practice and has earned the reputation of a very able lawyer. In 1896 he received the Republican nomination for district judge, getting the nomination in convention by a vote of forty-five to eighteen. He was defeated by just 103 votes. However, the successful candidate resigned in June after his election and Judge Hatch was appointed to fill the unexpired term by the governor. In 1900 he was elected on the Republican ticket district attorney for Wasatch, Utah and Uinta counties, serving one term, and refused reelection. Judge Hatch organized the town of Heber, and served as its attorney for three years. He gave freely of his time and professional services in many ways for the benefit of his locality and district. He helped establish the Heber Light & Power Company. He had an official part in the Republican party organization and in 1929 was prominent in the Ogden Republican Convention. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Heber, the Utah State and American Bar Associations.

Judge Hatch married December 17, 1879, Miss Maria Luke of Heber, daughter of Henry and Harriett Luke, who were early settlers in Sanpete County. Mrs. Hatch passed away March 19, 1919. On April 12, 1920, Judge Hatch married Elizabeth Nelson of Heber. His four children were: Abram Chase, Jr., now deceased; Henry Ray, a prominent physician of Idaho Falls, where he established a well equipped hospital; Sumner, now a member of the board of county commissioners of Wasatch County; and Kate, wife of George C. Murdock, Jr., of Beaver, Utah.

JOSEPH AND JANE CLYDE HATCH

Joseph Hatch was born July 26, 1854, in Lehi, son of Abram and Permelia Jane Lott Hatch. He married Jane Clyde, daughter of George W. and Jane Clyde, on August 16, 1875, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She died October 28, 1908, and he married Madie Hyde Sears in May, 1910. He died in May of 1933.

390

Pool Hall
add
197
under Wasatch
Ships

BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS



Joseph Hatch was one of Heber City's leading businessmen for more than 50 years. He was only a boy of 13 when he came with his father from Lehi to make a new home in Provo Valley. He drove the family livestock from Lehi to Heber, a three-day task. He finished his early education in Heber and then attended the old Morgan Business College in Salt Lake City, where he graduated in business. Returning to Heber, he helped his mother in their store, and through his efforts built up the business, A. Hatch & Co., to one of Heber's leading businesses. When his father died, in 1912, the business was reorganized and Joseph opened a coal yard and warehouse and worked in the wholesale business. He was also interested in mining, farming, stock raising, irrigation and politics. He always encouraged young people to seek an education. Fond of small children, he always had candy, a penny or something for all the children he met. Jane Clyde Hatch came to Heber in 1860 with her mother and family from Springville. She was an excellent seamstress and cook, and had a lovely singing voice. She was known as a splendid homemaker and always kept her home in order and her children neat and clean. She did much charity work and helped others in time of trouble. A good manager, she found the time necessary to do the things she desired to do. After her death, in 1908, Joseph Hatch married Madie Hyde Sears, a widow of some years. She moved to Heber and made her home in the valley until Mr. Hatch's death, in 1933. After that she lived with her two daughters, Hazel and Sally, in Los Angeles, but made frequent visits to Heber, where she was well known and respected. She died April 25, 1940.

Children of Joseph and Jane Clyde Hatch:

390

HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

Joseph Hatch, Jr.
Emma Hatch (married William Russell Wherritt).
Abram Hatch.
May Hatch (married Orson Hyde).
George Hatch.
Roy Hatch.
Floyd F. Hatch.
Glen S. Hatch.

391

ALVA M. MURDOCK



Alva Moroni Murdock was born April 26, 1857, in Carson Valley, Nevada. His parents, Joseph Stacy Murdock and Elizabeth Hunter Murdock, had been sent to Carson Valley on a colonizing mission by Brigham Young in 1856.

In 1857, when the crops were ready to harvest, they were called back to Salt Lake by Brigham Young because of the invasion of Johnston's army, and were told to bring ammunition from California.

Alva's father had to sell his ranch and crops as they stood, ready to harvest, to some Texans on their way to the California goldfields for horses and wagons to make the return journey to Utah.

Ten years of hard pioneering followed for the Murdock family, first in American Fork and later in Heber City, where Alva's father, Joseph Stacy Murdock, was the first bishop and also first representative to the State Legislature from Wasatch County. There always was progress, though. A stone home was built in Heber; children were sent to school, and life became somewhat easier.

438

BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

However, Joseph Murdock's organizational ability was too valuable to the Church to allow him to enjoy the comparative ease and security of the then well-established Heber City, and once more came the call to assist in colonizing, this time in southern Nevada in what is known as the Muddy Mission. So, in 1867, the Murdock family moved to the south, settling near the town of Moapa on the Muddy River.

The settlers had paid their taxes to Utah and to Arizona, only to find they were in Nevada, where more taxes were demanded. So, after a visit from Brigham Young, whom Alva says he remembers clearly, the project was abandoned for the time being and homes, orchards and 1,000 bushels of wheat were left behind.

The Murdock children were very happy to leave and when the father looked back as they came to a rise in the ground, he could see smoke rising. When asked about it, Alva admitted he had lighted the match, so they could not decide to turn back.

It was the trip to and from the Muddy Mission and the life there that is given credit for one of the outstanding habits of Alva's life. Because of the heat and mosquitoes, most of the travel was accomplished at night. Alva drove a yoke of oxen almost the entire way, although he was just a mere lad.

In 1870, when they reached Provo, the father, knowing that there were many mouths to feed, succeeded in securing the first government contract for carrying mail from Provo, by way of Heber and Kamas to Echo. Here the boys were put to work in relays with horses.

Interest in livestock became the deciding factor in Alva's destiny and was responsible for his entry into the Uintah Basin. He and Jim Clyde undertook to ride herd on a thousand head of cattle belonging to Heber residents, grazing them in the broad expanse of Strawberry Valley, now under the waters of Strawberry Reservoir. This herd was known as the Co-op herd and gave the name to Co-op Creek, which was a favorite camping spot for the herders.

In about 1875, when the feed in Strawberry Valley seemed inadequate for the cattle, the ranchers wanted them to graze. Alva and Jim Clyde decided to investigate

438

HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

the basin, where the season was a little longer, and they rode along the Strawberry River and in Sam's and Slabb Canyons.

Feed in these canyons was then luxuriant, according to Alva, and the men thought that if they just owned these two canyons they would have everything any cattleman might desire. Here was born an ambition which years later was realized. Not content even with this, the two young men went on down into the basin, prospecting the entire region, much of which was held as an Indian reservation.

The final result was the leasing of the entire basin by Alva, Jim Clyde and a third man, Charles Carter, for \$1,000 a year, from the Indian agent, with the stipulation that they confine their herd to cattle, barring horses and sheep which might get mixed with stock belonging to the Indians. The following year their herd increased to 3,000 head of cattle.

When he was just a little over 20, Alva married Josephine Nicol, born January 25, 1859, in Salt Lake City, Utah, daughter of Thomas and Johanna Handberg Nicol.

Alva and his wife were married in Salt Lake City on June 24, 1877, but made their home in Heber, and he recalls he was denied much of the pleasure of the usual young groom starting his home. Just three weeks after his marriage he suddenly was faced with the situation of a man whom he had hired to take care of his cattle in the basin, demanding more money, and rather than pay the increase, Alva took over the horse, saddle and provisions he had provided for the herder and went to the basin himself. Since there was no one to relieve him, he stayed there with the cattle, eventually finding himself snowed in. It was nine months before he was able to return the next spring to his bride.

Time for the next years was divided between the basin and Heber, though Alva kept his family in Heber some time. At Heber his energy took him to such occupations as timbering and saw milling.

In the meantime, Alva was becoming a man of importance in Heber, where he was constantly interested in civic improvement. Among other responsible positions there was that of early school trustee, and his interest in education never diminished. Ven-

tures there included a livery stable business and a stage line to Park City. And when the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad built a branch line into Heber in 1899, it broadened the market for livestock and he took a great many selling trips East, besides supplying Park City markets with beef.

His family, too, was increasing. His first daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, was born October 30, 1878, and died a year later. Ida Josephine, now Mrs. Oscar A. Kirkham, was born July 10, 1880, followed by two other daughters, Dora and Vern.

It was in 1885, when Vern was still a little girl, that Alva decided to establish a trading post at Whiterocks and took his wife and three daughters there to live. While he operated the trading post, his wife ran a boarding house for officials of the government agency. This took much of Mrs. Murdock's time and sometimes for the entire day little Vern would be taken over by the Indians.

The keen understanding of the Indians by Joseph Stacy Murdock—his father—seemed to have been passed on to the son Alva, for he stood in good stead both in his trading with the Indians and in his many associations with them. The Indians learned to consider him a friend and adviser, and held him in so much respect that in all the years he has run cattle in the basin it has never been proven that any Indian ever killed or stole a Murdock animal. He spoke and understood their language and they regarded each other as friends.

Then came the move to the basin to establish his permanent home when it was thrown open to homesteaders in 1905. By this time he was well known and established, both in Heber and in the basin, among whites and Indians alike. He was a man of resources and accomplishments, able to see and grasp opportunities and with the resourcefulness to carry through his projects.

On the day before opening, Alva, by special permit, was allowed to come in to establish a store and other accommodations to provide for the expected settlers. He brought in two wagons and a big circus tent, which he set up beside an old cabin which he bought from an Indian, Segusie Jack. In the cabin he kept his merchandise

over

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

while the tent became a store, boarding house and community center for homesteaders who flocked in to select their lands. Later a huge bonfire was built near the tent, around which were gathered 52 men, and Dora, his daughter, the only woman on the campsite. Grant was the only boy on the campsite. In honor of the occasion the crowd voted to call the settlement Dora, the name it carried for some time or until the post office was established under the name Theodore.

Owning the home ranch had been a dream of the family for years, and when it was finally secured on the Strawberry River, Alva and Josephine made a trip to Salt Lake and had planned a trip to the coast to improve her health. This was not to be, however, and in three weeks she was dead. Her passing occurred February 3, 1913, at the home of her son-in-law, Oscar A. Kirkham.

Alva then put all his energy into building up the ranch to make it a real home for his children and their friends. He had three summer homes built for Ida, Dora and Vern and their families, and a place of fun and entertainment in the large ranch house for his younger family, along with the work that necessarily had to be done.

After World War I, a financial crash came to Alva, as it did to many others, and he also realized that a home was not a home without a mother. So, in October, 1915, he married Ivy Stephens Liddell, and on April 7, 1919, his son, Willard S., was born.

In the meantime, many of his large family had been married and were living in homes of their own, some in the basin and others scattered about Utah and other states.

Of his 11 children, two died in infancy, and Merle and Wells as adults. Dora Ryan passing away in December, 1958. The others are Mrs. Oscar A. Kirkham, Salt Lake; Mrs. R. S. Lusty and Grant Murdock, Duchesne; Mrs. Hazel M. Murray, Willis, California; Mrs. J. C. Hansen, Helper, Utah; Ralph C. Murdock, Whitman, Nebraska; and Willard S. Murdock, Roosevelt, Utah.

Although Alva's health was failing, he was still active in civic and home affairs, and rode his favorite horse daily. At a meeting on February 2, 1944, he was elected general chairman for the Duchesne County

Fair Committee. He had also been president of the Chamber of Commerce and the year before had been chairman of the Duchesne County Stampede.

However, his family insisted he should seek medical aid in Salt Lake City, and he underwent an operation. He later was taken to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Oscar A. Kirkham, where all thought he was improving until the morning of November 1, 1944. He realized the end was near and asked Oscar to say a prayer, and a great spirit passed on.

MARVEL LAY MURDOCK



Marvel Murdock
Building Chairman

Marvel Lay Murdock was born August 6, 1897 in Vernal, Uintah County, the daughter of Wm. Elzy and Maude Davis Lay.

Mrs. Murdock attended the Kingsbury Congregational grade school and graduated from the Wilcox Academy in 1916.

The family had moved to Hanna, Utah, in 1912. Having always lived on a farm, Marvel fit right into ranch life when she married Joseph T. Murdock, co-owner and operator of a sheep ranch on the upper Duchesne River.

The Murdocks built a home in Heber in 1925 and then spent the school months in Heber and the spring and summer months at the ranch in Duchesne County.

Mrs. Murdock has been affiliated with the local auxiliary of the Wool Growers for many years. In 1944 she was elected vice

president of the State of Utah Wool Growers auxiliary, serving in this capacity for two years, then serving as president of the auxiliary the following two years. Later she served for four years as national vice president and two years as president of the National Woman's Auxiliary to the National Wool Growers Association.

The Murdocks are parents of two daughters, who passed away in infancy, and five sons, three of whom reside in Salt Lake City: Lowell A. is associated with the Robins Brokerage Co., Harvey L. is with the Investors Diversified Inc., Robert G. is with the Surety Life Insurance Co., J. Don is assistant to a construction contractor in Downey, California, and Allen D. is captain in the United States Air Force.